REGINA metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

METRO LOOKS AT CHRONIC SHORTAGES THAT PLAGUE FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS. DAY 1: THE PROBLEM PAGES 6-7

Another mass trial held in Egypt

No defence lawyers were present while 683 people were tried PAGE 5

Whatchu know about bacon?

Epic Meal Time would be proud of this meaty meatloaf PAGE 15

A CRUMBLY SITUATION

Regina resident Keith Rey holds a chunk of crumbling asphalt in front of his home on McDougall Road. According to Rey, a permanent solution needs to be developed to end Regina's pothole problem instead of investing in temporary fixes. Story, page 3.

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Saskatoon man still in critical condition

No diagnosis yet.
Ebola virus ruled out

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
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A man at a Saskatoon hospital previously suspected of having contracted Ebola during a recent trip to the African nation of Liberia does not have the deadly virus, health officials confirmed on Tuesday.

Tests at the National Microbiological Laboratory in Winnipeg have determined that Rod Ogilvie, president of Global Geological Services in Saskatoon, also does not have hemorrhagic fevers caused by the Lassa, Marburg or Crimean Congo viruses.

"Those are the four viral hemorrhagic fevers that we were very concerned about," Dr. Denise Werker, Saskatchewan's deputy chief medical health officer, told reporters in Regina.

"We now have information that we can discard those."

Werker notes that there is yet no diagnosis for Ogilvie, who remains in critical condition.

Laboratory tests will continue for him, she said.

An outbreak of Ebola in a region of west Africa is believed to have killed at least 59 people in Guinea and might have spread to neighbouring Liberia, where health officials are investigating five deaths after several people crossed the border in search of treatment.

"They're not allowing any visitors at all anywhere near him and I've been hearing that possibly he's on a ventilator and not able to communicate, but he's quite ill. They don't know what it is," George Sharpe, a friend and colleague of Ogilvie, said in Regina.

"Everybody is wishing him well and hoping he gets through this, but we're all waiting on pins and needles as to just what's made him so sick."

Werker said there's a possibility that Ogilvie, whom health officials have not identified by name, contracted a number of diseases prevalent in that region, such as malaria or yellow fever.

Based on his symptoms, Werker said, he is not believed to be a public health risk.

"If the person has malaria, (it's) not contagious person-to-person," she said, noting that another possibility, meningitis, could be contagious to close contacts. **WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI IN SASKATOON AND THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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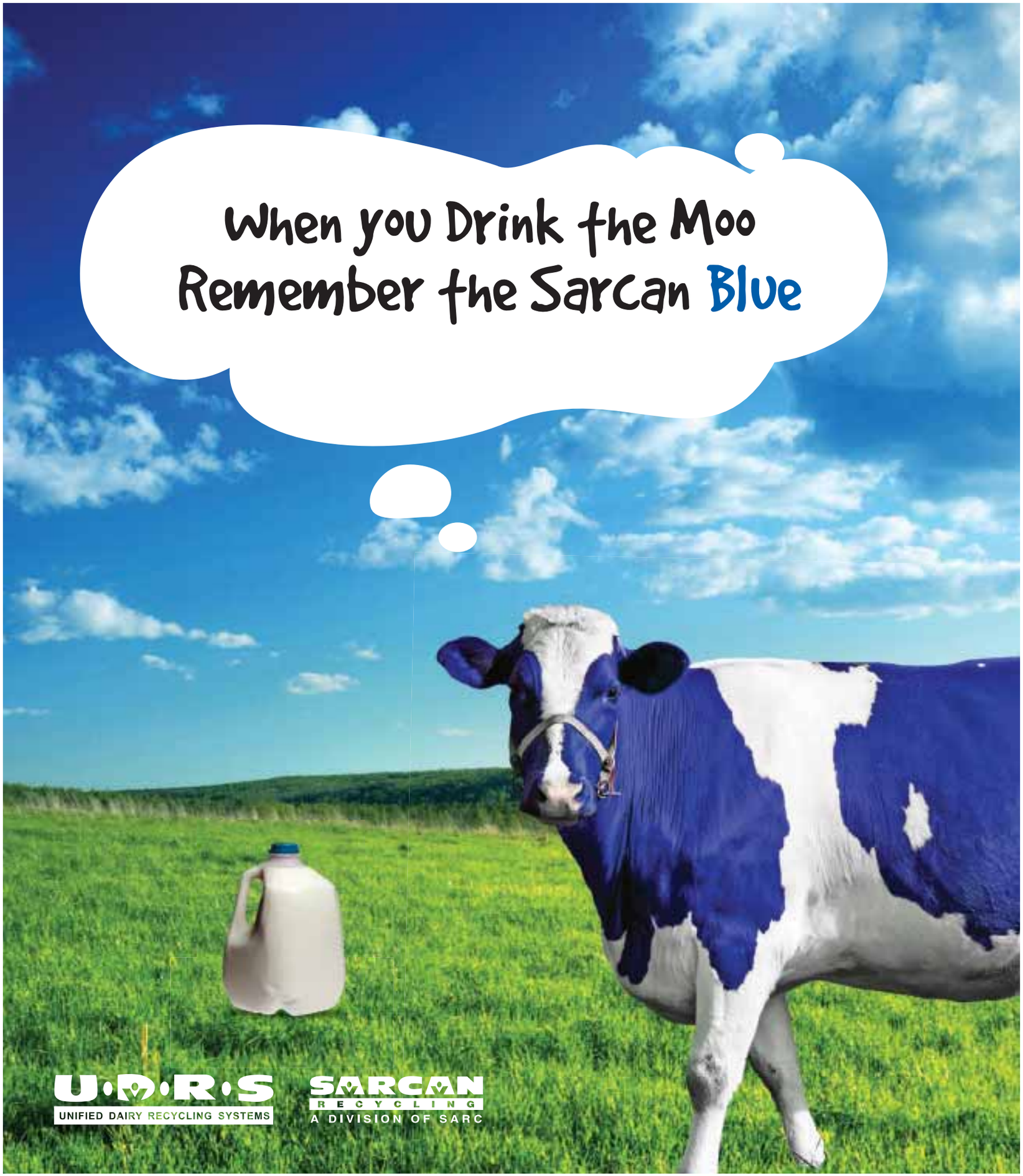
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Sedley, Sask.

Three killed, two badly hurt in collision

Three people have been killed and two others badly injured in a two-vehicle collision near Sedley, Sask.

RCMP say that two pickup trucks collided on Monday afternoon.

Two male passengers in one of the trucks were declared dead at the scene while the male driver died later in hospital. A female passenger was taken to hospital in Regina in serious condition.

The driver and sole occupant of the other truck was airlifted by STARS to a hospital in Regina.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RQHR

Pasqua to get better steam sterilization

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is pledging to implement a range of measures to improve the steam sterilization system at Pasqua Hospital to address equipment woes.

RQHR president Keith Dewar said the health region plans to follow through on a consultant's report that recommends reducing boiler conductivity and diligently checking steam traps, among other measures. Pasqua is processing about 80 to 85 per cent of its normal surgical volumes after a recurring discolouration of surgical packets during sterilization last month. METRO

Brad Wall

Marois explains 'sneaky' comment

Quebec Premier Pauline Marois, when asked about calling her Prairies counterpart Brad Wall sneaky, said she caught him allegedly trying to relegate one of her recent labour proposals into the appendix of a joint document. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pothole plight pines for permanent panacea: Locals

Going to pot? Roads so bad that ducks are setting up shop in street craters, resident complains

SARAH TAGUIAM
sarah.taguiam@metronews.ca

As spring potholes spring up across the city, residents are demanding permanent solutions to Regina's crumbling roads.

"It seems the city just can't keep up with it," Keith Rey, who lives on McDougall Road in Whitmore Park, said on Tuesday.

"On my street, it gets worse and worse. We have potholes like crazy … and even a huge hole where a duck or two would settle in like clockwork, because it's just that deep."

The city has a budget of $4.6 million for asphalt services this year. Last year, crews used 2,045 tonnes of asphalt to fill in dips and holes in the streets, according to roadways and transportation services director Adam Homes.

But Rey said the city needs to look beyond quick fixes.

"They've tried everything and it still doesn't work," he said.

"It's getting to the point where the whole street needs a complete rebuild."

Jonathan Bergen, owner of Bergen's Auto Body & Collision Centre, said potholes can be dangerous and are costly to motorists.

Pothole-related repairs such as torn splash shields, which cover vehicles' engines, could cost between $150 and $200.

"After we just fixed their cars, some customers would even have to come back because their splash shields are torn again," Bergen said.

Homes said the city has a "struggle" on the streets, and is "looking at the extra one per cent to help us address" the pothole difficulties.

"The big thing is for residents to report the potholes when they see them," he added.

"And we try to do the best we can."

The 1 per cent solution?

The city recently increased its property tax rate by 5.9 per cent — one per cent of which is going toward a street-renewal fund.

Keith Rey says McDougall Road, where he lives, is peppered with potholes — some so large that ducks, inset, have taken to the water that fills them. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO; INSET: COURTESY KEITH REY

Sask. touts new Bedline management software

John Ash, director of patient flow with the RQHR MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Health Minister Dustin Duncan says a new electronic management system for monitoring the status of hospital beds in Regina and Saskatoon is an "important tool" in improving patient flow by reducing administrative delays.

"The electronic bed management (EBM) … is an effective tool in improving the flow of a patient throughout the entire system," Duncan said on Tuesday of the Bedline program.

"It will be an important part of … getting to our goal by 2017 to see nobody waiting for services in the emergency department."

Duncan's comments came as he toured the program's north Regina command centre and listened to a presentation on the EMB system by Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region staff.

Bedline provides staff with updated information on hospital beds to better track patient movements.

"The number of admitted patients that we're seeing waiting in emergency departments is down 55 per cent," John Ash, director of patient flow with the RQHR, said of the program.

According to the RQHR, the program — implemented at Regina hospitals last October — is responsible for reducing the number of patients transferred within or between units by 10 per cent.

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Birds of a feather say no to Winnipeg's weather

No spring ahead, fall back! About 200 geese that made their annual return north decided it was too cold and flew back the way they came

SHANE GIBSON
Metro in Winnipeg

It's so cold in Winnipeg this spring even the geese are turning their feathers to our weather.

Ken Cudmore, of the FortWhyte Alive park and recreation facility, told Metro Tuesday a group of 200 or so Canada geese that had made their annual return to the centre last week took to the air and headed back the way they came just days after landing.

"I've been doing this for 30 years and I don't remember ever seeing anything like it," said Cudmore, FortWhyte's site and wildlife manager. "I couldn't imagine they went north, so I'm assuming they went back south."

Cudmore said geese normally follow the disappearing snowline on their annual migration north, and he thinks the few nice days we saw last week and a strong south wind might have tricked the birds into thinking it was nicer up this way than it turned out to be once they got here.

With temperatures dropping 10 and sometimes even closer to 20 degrees below the temperatures we can normally expect for this time of year, Cudmore said he doesn't blame the iconic birds one bit.

"Not at all," he laughed. "I'm thinking of joining them."

Ken Cudmore, site and wildlife manager of Winnipeg's FortWhyte Alive centre, says a group of 200 or so Canada geese that landed there last week have since headed back south because of the cold weather. CONTRIBUTED

Privacy. Device with data on 583,000 student loans left unsecured: Report

A portable hard drive containing personal information on more than half a million people who took out student loans was left unsecured for extended periods and lacked password protection and encryption, says the federal privacy czar.

Employees handling the device were not aware of the sensitivity of the information it contained, concludes the report from interim privacy commissioner Chantal Bernier.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada acknowledged last year the drive held data on 583,000 Canada Student Loans Program borrowers from 2000 to 2006.

The missing files included student names, social insurance numbers, dates of birth, contact information and loan balances, as well as the personal contact information of 250 department employees.

Bernier's report, tabled in Parliament, says a gap between policies and practices at the department — now known as Employment and Social Development Canada — led to weaknesses in information management, physical security controls and employee awareness.

The commissioner found that department employees violated sections of the federal Privacy Act related to the use, disposal and disclosure of personal information.

Information security cannot be assured by having policies on paper — they must be put into practice every day, Bernier said.

The department has begun implementing her recommendations, she added. "We hope this investigation will prompt other federal departments and private-sector organizations to review their own privacy policies and practices."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Human error or ill intent?

2 months

The privacy commissioner's office opened its investigation in January of last year after the department reported that the hard drive had been missing for two months. Officials did not know whether it was a case of human error or ill intent.

Study: Most lost cellphones are returned — after some snooping

The odds of having a lost cellphone returned are just a little better than 50/50, while the chances of it being probed by its finder are close to 100 per cent, according to the results of an experiment conducted in six Canadian cities.

Security software company Symantec dropped 10 phones each in Calgary, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver and waited to see if they would be returned.

Each phone was preloaded with icons for phoney apps designed to tempt the finders into tapping on them. Tracking software recorded what they couldn't resist peeking at.

Stefano Tiranardi, an information protection specialist with Symantec Canada, says he's disappointed by the results of the experiment.

"I was surprised at the higher-than-expected numbers," Tiranardi says.

"Really, individuals who misplace a phone or have it stolen have absolutely no hope their private information will remain private."

Of the 60 phones in the test, 55 per cent of them were picked up by someone who attempted to return the device, while 27 were grabbed and never returned — and they weren't even flashy high-end smartphones: Symantec used older Google Android phones for the experiment.

Among the questions that Symantec wanted to answer with the study was how persistent people would be in poking around a found phone.

The answer was very.

One phone dropped at a Calgary bus stop was found by an honourable person eager to return it. But while waiting to establish contact with the rightful owner, that person did some extensive snooping. That storyline wasn't unusual.

Ninety-three per cent of the phones were accessed in some way by people who found them. Social networking and corporate-related apps were tapped on about two-thirds of the phones, while passwords, photos and email apps were launched on half of the devices. An online banking app was accessed on one in three phones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Security-software company Symantec dropped 10 cellphones in six Canadian cities to see how persistent people would be in snooping around in phones they found. The answer, according to the results of the experiment, is very. ISTOCK

Quebec

Lac-Mégantic probe officially wrapped up

Quebec provincial police are confirming they have completed their investigation into the deadly train disaster in Lac-Mégantic.

The crash and explosion killed 47 and destroyed a large swath of the downtown area last summer.

Police spokeswoman Aurelie Guindon says the investigation was officially wrapped up on Saturday and the case is now in the hands of the province's director of criminal and penal prosecutions.

Neither the Crown nor police would discuss the results of the probe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta

Man forced from home by flooding wins a new house

A man who was forced out of his home by flooding in southern Alberta last year has won a show home worth almost $1 million.

High River resident William Rader was out of his house for almost two months when floodwaters swamped most of the town south of Calgary last June.

Rader bought a ticket for the STARS air ambulance fundraising lottery and was one of four grand-prize winners. He says finding out he won a house — worth $945,000 — is surreal and it will take some time to sink in. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political pages

Justin Trudeau publishing an autobiography

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has announced he will publish a personal memoir.

In a press release, publisher HarperCollins Canada says the "candid" autobiography will cover the 42-year-old's childhood to his university days and political career, and will boast "anecdotes, personal reflections and never-before-seen photographs."

The memoir is set to be released this fall, and proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Egyptian court holds new mass trials

Troubling. The trials have raised deep concerns among human rights activists

After a single session with no defence lawyers present, an Egyptian judge said Tuesday he will issue verdicts next month in a new mass trial of 683 suspected Islamists on charges of murder and attempted murder, a day after he sentenced hundreds to death in a similar trial that raised a storm of international criticism.

The mass trials have raised deep concerns among human rights activists over the lack of due process as Egyptian authorities push swift and heavy prosecutions in their crackdown against Islamists and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Some 16,000 have been arrested in the crackdown since the military's ouster of President Mohammed Morsi last summer.

Defence lawyers boycotted the trial that began Tuesday in the court in the city of Minya, south of Cairo, to protest the verdicts issued the day before in a separate trial.

Despite the lawyer boycott, presiding judge Said Youssef went ahead with the session, hearing testimony, in what the lawyers called a violation of the law.

After the five-hour hearing, the judge announced that he would issue verdicts in the case at the next session, set for April 28, according to judicial and security officials who attended the sessions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Defies logic'

- The U.S. State Department said it "defies logic" that so many defendants could have gotten a fair trial in two sessions.

Waving goodbye to Crimea

Ukrainian marines leaving their base wave from a bus in Feodosia, Crimea, Tuesday. Ukrainian soldiers piled onto buses and began their journey to Ukrainian territory on Tuesday, as former comrades saluted them from outside a base overrun by Russian forces. Their departure came as Ukraine's defence minister stepped down Tuesday after facing harsh criticism for the often hesitant reaction to Russia's annexation of Crimea, which was formalized following a hastily organized referendum this month. VALERIY KULYK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Challenging case

U.S. Supreme Court tackles religious rights of companies

The U.S. Supreme Court struggled Tuesday with the question of whether companies have religious rights, a case challenging President Barack Obama's health overhaul and its guarantee of birth control in employees' preventive care plans.

Peppering attorneys with questions in a 90-minute argument, the justices weighed the rights of for-profit companies against the rights of female employees. The discussion ranged to abortion, too, and even whether a female worker could be forced to wear an all-covering burka.

The outcome could turn on the views of Justice Anthony Kennedy, often the decisive vote, as his eight colleagues appeared otherwise to divide along liberal and conservative lines.

As the court heard the challenge brought by the Hobby Lobby chain of stores and others, demonstrators on both sides of the issue chanted outside in an early spring snow.

The justices upheld the overall health-care law two years ago in a 5-4 ruling in which Chief Justice John Roberts cast the deciding vote in favour of Obama's signature domestic legislation.

The latest case focuses on a sliver of the law dealing with preventive services, including contraception, that must be offered in a company's plan at no extra charge.

The family-owned companies that are challenging the provision provide health insurance to their employees but object to covering certain methods of birth control that they say can work after conception, in violation of their religious beliefs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Students holding out hope

MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro in Saskatoon

Despite inadequate funding, limited access to technology and outdated learning materials, some students attending school on First Nations reserves are hopeful about their future.

One of them is Grade 9 student Payton Daniels. Sitting in the library of the Sturgeon Lake Central School on Saskatchewan's Sturgeon Lake First Nation, the 15-year-old fiddles with her hands as she talks about her future goals.

"I want to go to university and become a veterinarian," she says. "I think I can do that with the education here."

With Prince Albert only about 40 minutes away, a number of students have been leaving Sturgeon Lake for opportunities in the city. But that option doesn't interest her.

"Here, I can actually learn about ... my native culture," Daniels says. "Our generation, we lost a lot of our culture.... I really want to get my culture back, and I've started beading, and I'm trying to learn Cree again."

If she graduates, she'll be among the minority of on-reserve First Nations students.

A 2011 report from Canada's auditor general found the education gap between First Nations and the rest of the population is growing even wider — a trend the federal government is trying to reverse.

The almost $2 billion in promised funding is welcome news, but for many young people, like Grade 12 student Patrick Ermine, it will come too late.

"I'm actually known here at the school for being an artist, but there aren't any art classes," says Ermine, 18, who aspires to be a tattoo artist.

While Ermine and Daniels are hopeful about their future, Joanne Berg, a resource teacher at the school, remains worried that a lack of access to modern technology and resources will hurt students in the long run.

"When they choose to go off to university, and their profs are not looking at where they come from, they expect everybody to be able to go and research essays, and find their textbooks," she says.

"They just don't have that ability. We find the kids that are leaving and going off to university are coming back home because they don't know how to access those resources."

"I'm actually known here at the school for being an artist, but there aren't any art classes."

Patrick Ermine, 18, at Sturgeon Lake Central School

"I want to go to university and become a veterinarian. I think I can do that with the education here."

Payton Daniels, 15, at Sturgeon Lake Central School

Learning with

Upheaval is coming for First Nations schools. The federal government is planning to invest nearly $2 billion into the neglected system and give communities more control over their own education. Metro travelled to two on-reserve schools to document their condition, the details of the plan and why many people say the proposed changes may be their kids' last chance.

A Grade 12 English class at Sturgeon Lake Central School reads Lord of the Flies. Administrators at many on-reserve schools must make do without the funds to hire

JACOB MORGAN
Metro in Saskatoon

For administrators at on-reserve schools, every day is a juggling act.

"It's a constant struggle finding enough money for everything," says Pauline McKay, director and principal of the Sturgeon Lake Central School, which serves the Sturgeon Lake First Nation about 55 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert, Sask.

But many are optimistic that the years ahead will be different.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is promising $1.9 billion over seven years in the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. The funding is set to kick in next year.

"We have one phys-ed teacher for all of our 500 kids," says McKay, providing an example of the chronic shortages. "There's always a lack of staff."

In most of the country, First Nations education is funded through the federal government, whereas mainstream public schools receive funding through the province.

McKay said that Sturgeon Lake gets $6,500 per student per year. By comparison, the provincial government provided more than $10,000 per student to public and Catholic divisions in the North Battleford, Sask., area, and around $17,000 to the French board, according to a 2013 study from educational consultant R. J. Kowalchuk.

That discrepancy results in fewer course offerings. McKay envies how provincial schools are able to enjoy such luxuries as drama and music classes.

"For extras, we have phys-ed and we've got Cree," McKay says. "That's it."

All this hasn't stopped McKay and others at the school from trying to produce graduates out of children deprived of resources. McKay designed her own schedule so students can focus their efforts on one course at a time each month.

At James Smith Cree Nation, roughly 65 kilometres from Prince Albert, the situation is even worse.

Marlene Nicholls, principal of Bernard Constant Community School, says her administration ends up with just $4,340 per student. Staff can't even afford to call in sick.

"This year we weren't able to hire substitute teachers," she says.

During the five-plus years Nicholls has been with the school, she hasn't once been able to purchase a new vehicle. Luckily, she has a retention worker who can double as a mechanic.

"In the public school system, you have to have (your vehicles) inspected," she says. "We try our best to adhere to those rules and policies, but there's no money for that."

What Nicholls does have is a retention worker and a community liaison to keep tabs on troubled students.

"If a teacher says, 'This kid is missing,' then they go and find out what's happening," she says. "They also have some training in addictions."

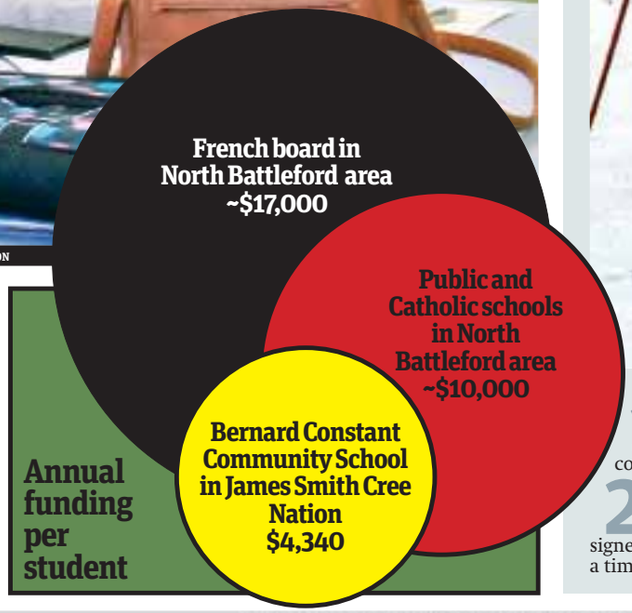
less

enough teachers. JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Each of these social workers earns only $19,000 a year.

The new Conservative initiative for First Nations education is expected to start injecting increased funding in 2015. So the question for those on the ground is not only whether it will be enough, but also whether it will be soon enough.

"I don't think people really believe what it's like in the reserve," McKay says.


French board in North Battleford area ~$17,000
Public and Catholic schools in North Battleford area ~$10,000
Bernard Constant Community School in James Smith Cree Nation $4,340
Annual funding per student

CATCHING DREAMS

Day 1: the Problem

Day 2: the Plan

Day 3: the Promise

On the web

1 Gallery. Outdated and in disrepair

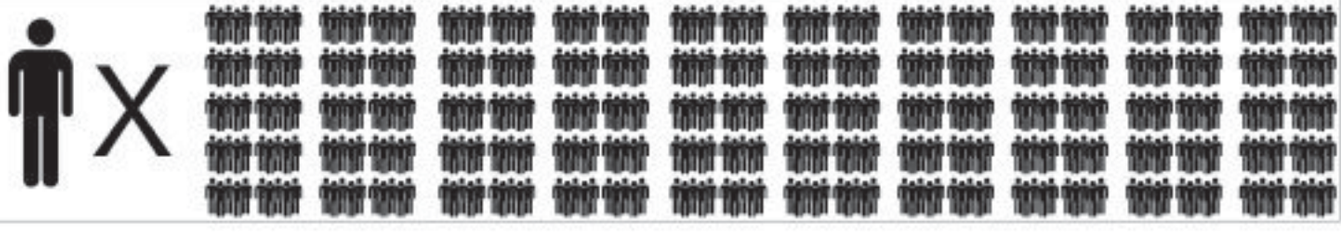
Visit metronews.ca to take a closer look at some of the conditions that exist in the First Nations schools of Saskatchewan.

2 Timetable. The basics — just the basics

Principal Pauline McKay of the Sturgeon Lake Central School designed her own schedule so students can focus their efforts on one course at a time each month. Visit metronews.ca to see the meagre timetable.

Hope he's good with names ...

Sturgeon Lake Central has just one phys-ed teacher for its 500 students.



Ethiopia

Being gay to become a 'non-pardonable' crime

Ethiopia's lawmakers are set to pass a bill that puts homosexuality on a list of offences considered "non-pardonable" under the country's amnesty law, a measure that continues a trend of anti-gay legislation across Africa. The bill, endorsed last week by Ethiopia's Cabinet, is widely expected to pass when lawmakers put it to a vote next week. Homosexuality is criminalized in 38 African countries, about 70 per cent of the continent, according to Amnesty International. Uganda and Nigeria have recently strengthened criminal penalties against homosexuals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Ocean search

China demands satellite data on missing plane

China demanded Tuesday that Malaysia turn over the satellite data used to conclude that a Malaysia Airlines jetliner had crashed in the southern Indian Ocean, killing all 239 on board. Officials sharply narrowed the search area as a result of that assessment, but the zone remains as large as Texas and Oklahoma combined. Australia said improved weather would allow the hunt for the plane to resume Wednesday after gale force winds and heavy rain forced a day-long delay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security guidelines

35 countries take new nuclear security pledge

Thirty-five countries pledged Tuesday to turn international guidelines on nuclear security into national laws, a move aimed at preventing terrorists from getting their hands on nuclear material. U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said the guidelines are now "the closest things we have to international standards for nuclear security." But the agreement on adopting guidelines into law was endorsed by just 35. Among other countries that agreed were France, Britain, Canada and Israel; notably absent were Russia, China, India and Pakistan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dozens missing, deaths keep climbing in Wash. mudslide

The search. Some crews had to pull back on Monday because of concern over potential flash floods or another landslide

Washington state officials say searchers found 10 more bodies in the debris of a massive landslide, raising the number of people who died in the disaster to 24.

Snohomish County District 21 Fire Chief Travis Hots announced the fatalities Tuesday evening after residents from the nearby logging town of Darrington spent the day helping rescue crews scour the muck for any sign of survivors.

The grim discoveries came three days after the collapse of a rain-soaked hillside about 55 miles north of Seattle.

Searchers had warned they were likely to find more bodies in the debris field, which covered a neighbourhood of 49 structures. Authorities believe at least 25 were full-time residences.

Dozens of people remain unaccounted for. Authorities are working off a list of 176 potentially missing people, though many of those names likely are duplicates and they think that number will decrease.

From the beginning, rescue crews on the ground have faced dangerous and unpredictable conditions as they navigated quicksand-like mud that was 15 feet deep in some places. Some who went in got caught up to their armpits in the thick, sticky sludge.

A scientist who documented the landslide conditions on the hillside that buckled had warned in a 1999 report filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the "potential for a large catastrophic failure," the Seattle Times reported late Monday.

That report was written by geomorphologist Daniel J. Miller and his wife, Lynne Rodgers Miller. "We've known it would happen at some point," Daniel Miller told the newspaper.

Snohomish County executive John Lovick and public works director Steve Thomsen said Monday night they were not aware of the 1999 report. "A slide of this magnitude is very difficult to predict," Thomsen told the Times. "There was no indication, no indication at all."

Snohomish County emergency management director John Pennington said officials would examine the report, but he said local authorities were vigilant about warning of potential landslide dangers. A less severe slide struck the area in 2006.

"We've done everything we could to protect them. We've mitigated the landslide from 2006," Pennington said at a morning news conference. "We're going to get to the bottom of this."

He said the local homeowners "were very aware of the slide potential."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flowers are left on debris next to a demolished home where a woman's body was found following a deadly mudslide, Tuesday, in Arlington, Wash. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama to propose ending NSA's phone spying

U.S. President Barack Obama SEAN GALLUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/POOL

The White House wants the National Security Agency to get out of the business of sweeping up and storing vast amounts of data on Americans' phone calls. And a proposal to have the government seek information from phone companies' existing records satisfies public concerns about privacy, President Barack Obama said Tuesday.

The Obama administration is expected this week to propose that Congress overhaul the electronic surveillance program to end the government's practice of collecting the phone records of millions of Americans and holding them for five years so the data can be searched for national security purposes. Obama commented Tuesday in the Netherlands at the close of a summit on nuclear security.

The White House proposal is similar to legislation members of the House Intelligence Committee introduced Tuesday. Both Obama and the chairman of the intelligence committee have said the existing phone records collection program receives plenty of oversight and the data is secure. But the White House and House intelligence committee are responding to public concerns about the NSA counterterrorism program.

Details of the government's secret phone records collection program were disclosed last year by former NSA contract systems analyst Edward Snowden.

"There's a lot of mistrust" as a result of the Snowden disclosures, Chairman of the House intelligence committee Mike Rogers, R-Mich., said. And this new proposal addresses those concerns, he said.

The White House is expected to propose that the phone companies hold onto the records for 18 months, just as they are required to do now by federal regulation.

The bulk phone records collection program is set to expire next summer. If Congress can't agree on changes before then, the program will end completely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Debbie Downer Raitt dashes dreams of Northwest Passage

You're enjoying your day ... Everything's going your way when along comes Lisa Raitt to tell you there'll be no Arctic shortcut soon

Transport Minister Lisa Raitt
THE CANADIAN PRESS

All the enthusiastic talk about shipping through the Arctic will remain mostly just that — talk — for the foreseeable future, says Transport Minister Lisa Raitt.

During an appearance Tuesday in Washington, Raitt played down expectations that the Northwest Passage would become a viable shipping route any time soon — expectations stoked by the prospect of a changing climate opening up the famed route pursued by explorers centuries ago.

She bluntly offered a list of concerns — including from insurance companies who, she said, are the ones really calling the shots about what ships would be allowed to pass through the area.

There are too many problems for now, including shallow passes and a lack of navigational markers, Raitt said. Any time savings offered by the shorter route would be negated if a ship got stuck, she added.

And then there's the frightening prospect of oil spills.

"I don't see it happening right now," Raitt said in a lengthy, freewheeling question-and-answer session at the Canadian American Business Council.

Nonetheless, the former head of the Toronto Port Authority said she remains enthusiastic about the possibility.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some ebook(glow)worms to get account credits

Maarten Heilbron of Toronto reads an ebook on his iPad while his wife, Kim, reads on a Kobo Touch. Buyers of ebooks will get account credits this week from five publishers — Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, Penguin Group and Holtzbrinck doing business as Macmillan — who reached settlements after states alleged they colluded to raise prices, New York's attorney general said Tuesday. TEXT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; PHOTO: RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute

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Waterloo

BlackBerry aims to cash in on BBM

BlackBerry is about to launch an update to its popular BlackBerry Messenger chat service that it hopes will rake in some extra coin. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Math problem!

Little Johnny has 37 candies and wants to divide them evenly among his five buddies, leaving an equal number for himself. How many candies does each of the boys get?

Answer: Little Johnny hasn't the faintest idea.

He and his friends take the "discovery" method of mathematics at school, where they don't learn the answer but are taught techniques for getting to the answer some day.

So they don't know much about division or fractions. Nor, for that matter, multiplication tables, adding and subtracting from columns of numbers or any of that other boring stuff.

Go figure.

If you don't learn the fundamentals of math, you're in over your head the moment you encounter algebra. And if you don't master algebra, the door is barred to careers in engineering, science, medicine, IT, etc.

Math problem indeed!

I suppose you could get an English degree, but you'd have to learn how to spell. Although the way things are going these days, that may not be necessary.

This is not just idle speculation from the back-to-basics crowd. You know: those flinty fundamentalists who walked 10 kilometres to school uphill both ways in a snowstorm and liked it. Canadian math students have dropped out of the top 10 in international math scores. We're number 13!

And in the latest round of tests, only 16 per cent of Canadian students scored at "high achieving levels," compared to 30 per cent of Asian students.

That sound you hear? That's Canada's future going into the ditch on the road to progress.

Things are so bad even parents are starting to notice. The province of Alberta has drawn back from the "discovery" method after receiving a petition from more than 11,700 people who want their kids to be able to count. And Manitoba has reintroduced math drills back into the classroom, while trying to wean kids from kindergarten to Grade 3 off calculators. Ontario is sticking to the discovery course. Why fix it if it doesn't work in the first place?

Right now, you're probably going: "Who needs math?" Well, you do. Every day: at work, on the family finances, trying to convert U.S. gas prices to Canadian litres and dollars (which require advanced calculus), figuring out what to buy at the hardware store or how much to tip the waiter (although many restaurants are pleased to do the calculation for you).

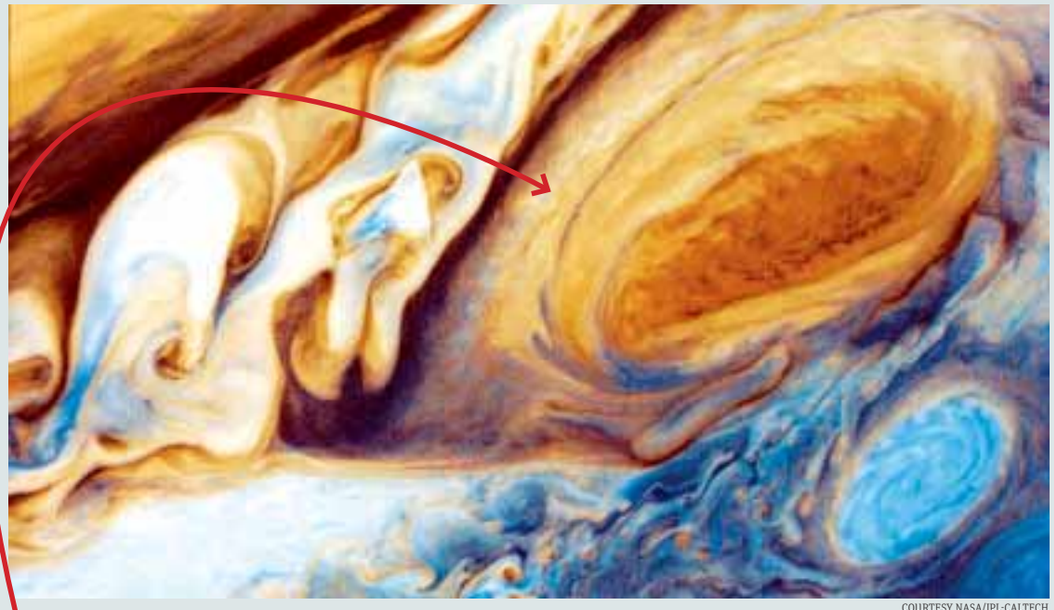
You're at the mercy of the bad old world unless you know how to figure, and for that you need multiplication tables or long division. And unless you do something and soon, your kids will suck at math even worse than you do.

Just think, if little Johnny knows how to divide, he'll successfully divvy up the candies into lots of six with one left over. And he gets to keep that one.

His friends can't count, so they'll never "discover" what he's done.

ZOOM

Jupiter paints a pretty picture



COURTESY NASA/JPL-CALTECH

Artistic photo of Great Red Spot

It appears to be a canvas painted with Vincent van Gogh's colourful swirls in mind — but this is in fact a photo of Jupiter's Great Red Spot, captured by NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft. The Great Red Spot, the most conspicuous feature of Jupiter's cloud surface, is an atmospheric storm that has been raging in the planet's Southern Hemisphere for at least 400 years.

In 1979, Voyager zoomed toward Jupiter, capturing hundreds of images during its approach. The observations revealed many features of the planet's surface that are still being explored today. This particular view was only recently assembled from three black and white negatives by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. METRO

Storm's mystery

- **Size.** 20,000 kilometres long and 12,000 kilometres wide, 3.5 times the size of Earth.
- **Mystery.** Scientists remain baffled why the storm does not dissipate. Their best explanation is the storm gains energy by swallowing smaller vortices in Jupiter's jet streams.

A view of planet Jupiter.
COURTESY NASA

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

CONTRIBUTED

The latest in a series of Internet memes-to-book crazes is dog shaming: pictures of downtrodden dogs posing with notes outlining what they ate, chewed or pooped on. However, like most Internet memes, dog shaming has spawned a series of spinoffs — even baby shaming.

DogShaming.com:
The original site is still one of the best. You can also follow Pascale Lemire on Twitter @dogshaming.

Cat-Shaming:
Not content to let dogs have even a slice of online infamy, the Internet's reigning animal was one of the first to jump on the shaming bandwagon. Tumblr is rife with cat-shaming pics, many of which are collected at cat-shaming.tumblr.com.

Horse-Shaming.com:
For the irrepressible equine in your life.

Pinterest:
No matter what your preferred genre of shaming is, Pinterest has you covered. The photo-sharing site has plenty of shaming content, but is a particular hotbed of baby shaming.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: School boards are teaching responsible tweeting. What lesson would you teach kids who use social media?

@andiwrongwolf: I would teach them that their tweets along with any worldly doings are ultimately meaningless due to their unshakeable mortality

@sassypants81: Never use your real name. - Not Alana Beck

@EvanPetrie17: Don't hide behind anonymity. It's cowardly.

@Canucklehead_ca: RULE #1: Do as I say, not as I do.

@ljorche: Tweet as if your Grandparents will be reading it.

@artsyTrish: Ignore the trolls. Do not engage in argument just because you are not face to face. Respect others.

@HanahBissell: everything is public and can never be deleted. Even if its "private" or "removed" Bad tweets at 16 can haunt you.

@reachstacey: they do not understand how swearing and vulgarity will come back to haunt them by employers-they don't care

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Crowe blockbuster latest in a flood of Noah movies

Story ark. Bible tale formerly featured in Disney films and doc

IN FOCUS
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Russell Crowe stars in Noah, directed by Darren Aronofsky. CONTRIBUTED

According to Genesis, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them."

Noah, a righteous man, was commanded to build an ark and stock it with "two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive."

For 40 days and 40 nights Noah, his family and precious cargo withstood a flood so severe it submerged the tops of mountains until "every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out."

Once the flooding stopped and the Earth dried, God commanded Noah to come out of the ark and release the animals, "so they can multiply on the Earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

The story of Noah's ark and the flood is one of mankind's most famous tales and Hollywood has retold it a number of times.

This weekend Russell Crowe plays the title role in Noah, co-starring Jennifer Connelly, Anthony Hopkins and Emma Watson. Director Darren Aronofsky says he has been obsessed with the story since he was 13, calling it "the first apocalypse story." Nonetheless, he has added his own spin to the tale.

"When we first started working on the project, we were very clear not to have sandals and robes and long white beards," he told Rolling Stone. "The first thing I said to Russell Crowe was, 'I'll never shoot you on a houseboat with two giraffes standing behind you.'"

More traditional are two Disney short films. Father Noah's Ark is a 1933 "Silly Symphony" for children that tells the narrative in song. Lively animation shows how the animals may have helped build the ship and why skunks almost didn't make it on board.

In 1959 Disney released the twenty-minute Noah's Ark, their first stop-motion animated film. A jazzy score accompanies equally jazzy animation as pencils, pipe cleaners and other household items are inventively used to create the animals.

Shooting the flood scene in the 1928 version of Noah's Ark endangered the life of a future Hollywood icon. John Wayne was a swimmer in the famous scene, and emerged unhurt, but other weren't so lucky. Three extras drowned and a dozen others suffered broken limbs.

Finally, a 1977 documentary claims to shed some light on the real story. In Search of Noah's Ark is an investigation into the speculation that Turkey's Mt. Ararat in is the landing place of Noah's Ark. "This may be the most incredible film you will ever see," says narrator Brad Crandall, "but the facts that will be presented are true."

An untraditional Noah

"We were very clear not to have sandals and robes and long white beards."

Darren Aronofsky, director of Noah

Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow GETTY IMAGES

After 11 years, Gwyneth and Chris call it quits

It appears things have gone cold in the Paltrow-Martin household. After months of speculation, Gwyneth Paltrow confirmed on her website, Goop, that she and Coldplay singer Chris Martin are calling it quits.

"It is with hearts full of sadness that we have decided to separate," she writes. "We have been working hard for well over a year, some of it together, some of it separated, to see what might have been possible between us, and we have come to the conclusion that while we love each other very much we will remain separate."

Paltrow and Martin married 11 years ago and have two children, Apple, 9, and Moses, 7. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Nick Cannon appeared on Instagram in gleeful whiteface to promote his upcoming album, White People Party Music. INSTAGRAM

Nick Cannon dons whiteface

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

White people, let's agree to be mature about this one.

Yes, that's Nick Cannon up there. Yes, he's donned what might be termed "whiteface." Yes, he adorned the Instagram pic with the caption, "It's official… I'm White!!! #WHITEPEOPLEPARTYMUSIC #Wppm in stores April 1st!!!!!!Dude Go Get It!!!Join The Party!!!! #GoodCredit #DogKissing #BeerPong #FarmersMarkets #FistPumping #CreamCheeseEating #RacialDraft "Bro I got drafted!!"

So what led Mr. Mariah Carey to dress up as a ginger bro, looking like he's having the time of his life? He's promoting his upcoming album, White People Party Music. However, some of the Internet is writhing under the sting of what it perceives as Cannon's brutal racism. "Why is it considered humour when a black person paints their face white but when a white person paints their face black, it's racism? I don't care what justification anyone has for it. The action is still the same and people have the right to feel violated by @nickcannon actions," Instagram user c_n_v commented, adding, "The movie White Chicks was not meant to make fun of a race but instead two undercover cops doing their job."

All right, I may be in the minority on this one, but I think it's fine. Blackface is offensive because minstrel shows were part of the systematic oppression of African-Americans for hundreds of years. White people have never been systematically oppressed by black people. No, not even two days ago, when Nick Cannon dressed up as your cousin Colin.

The movie White Chicks, though, was a bridge too far.

Taylor Swift GETTY IMAGES

Swift gets restraining order against stalker

A judge has granted Taylor Swift a three-year restraining order against a man who has threatened the singer's family.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson granted Swift a protective order from Timothy Sweet, who has expressed his belief that he is married to the Grammy winner.

Swift was granted a temporary restraining order against Sweet on March 3. Swift's filing states Sweet has sent messages threatening to harm Swift's family or anyone who interferes with his perceived relationship with the entertainer. The singer wrote in a sworn declaration that she fears for her safety in public and at home.

Court filings state Sweet has sent threatening messages online and went to Swift's Beverly Hills home in February. The order also covers Swift's parents. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Flavor Flav GETTY IMAGES

N.Y.'s Public Enemy? Flavor Flav back in court

Entertainer Flavor Flav must return to New York at least one more time to answer charges stemming from his arrest as he raced to his mother's funeral.

Police say the rapper and reality TV star was speeding and driving without a licence, a felony, on Jan. 9 on the Meadowbrook Parkway on Long Island.

Flav, whose real name is William Drayton, told reporters as he entered a Nassau County courtroom Tuesday that he hoped to resolve the case. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Machu Picchu three ways

A trip to the ancient citadel in Peru's Cusco region, 2,430 metres above sea level, tops many bucket lists. The beauty of the 15th-century site becomes even more awe-inspiring when you take in the surrounding Andean peaks and the Vilcanota-Urubamba River. Whether you're a thrill-seeker, an eco aficionado or a connoisseur, there's something for everyone on the trail to the icon of Inca civilization.

MORGAN DUNLOP
life@metronews.ca

Loki Hostel's action-packed tours are a great way to bond with other fun-loving travellers. MORGAN DUNLOP/FOR METRO

For the thrill-seeker

Party every night with travellers from around the world at the Loki Hostel in Cusco city (beds from $8). Named after the Scandinavian god of mischief, this former Spanish colonial home fell into disrepair before four friends set out to turn it into the go-to social spot for fun-loving travellers looking to bond over copious amounts of alcohol. After sharing a row of fiery blood bombs — a shot of vodka mixed with grenadine, lit on fire and plunged into a half-glass of Red Bull — you may decide to head on a trek to Machu Picchu together. The hostel's most action-packed tour leaves you at Machu Picchu after four days of hiking, white- water rafting, mountain biking and zip- lining. Make sure to hike the higher Huayna Picchu for a vertical climb that leads to a stunning view of the site. Before you leave Cusco, dine like a local at the San Pedro market. Expect to be pleasantly ignored and served authentic, inexpensive food, like barbecued guinea pig and alpaca. Try not to be too hungover when you pass the pungent entrails aisle. Visit lokihostel.com/cusco; also see the Loki Travel section of the site for tour information.

For the eco aficionado

Warm your feet by a crackling fire in your Andean-village inspired whitewashed casita at the Inka Terra Machu Picchu hotel (rooms from about $440). A 30-minute bus ride from Machu Picchu, this property lies in the Andean cloud forest — a lush ecosystem at the intersection of the Peruvian Andes and the Amazon Basin. Towering mountains on either side provide fresh drinking water and fill the hotel's pool and hot tubs. The grounds are home to fruit and vegetable gardens, a tea plantation and 372 orchid species, as well as a diverse hummingbird population and several rescued Andean spectacled bears the hotel hopes to reintroduce to the wild. Take a day trip to Awana Kancha to see the life cycle of the garments you see at local markets. Feed llamas and alpacas while watching as women from local communities spin their fibres, dye the wool with various herbs, barks and minerals and weave them into intricate vibrant designs. Visit inkaterra.com and awanakancha.com/en.

Soak in the luxury at Palacio Nazarenas. PALACIO NAZARENAS

For the connoisseur

Sip a Pisco Sour prepared by your butler as you adapt to the altitude in Cusco's luxury hotel, Palacio Nazarenas (rooms from about $610). Oxygen-enriched rooms and aromatherapy pillows, stuffed with peppermint, coca leaves, sage and flower petals, help ease the transition to 3,400 metres, about 1,000 metres higher than Machu Picchu. A five-minute walk from the main square, this property features modern comforts with historic charm. Board the Belmond Hiram Bingham train (return trip from about $885), named after the archaeologist credited with introducing the West to Machu Picchu. Sip complimentary mimosas as you travel through the ever-changing scenery from Cusco city to Machu Picchu. Arrive at Machu Picchu rested and refreshed for a hike with one of the train's knowledgeable guides. Don't leave Peru without the Inca royalty treasure vicuña. Considered one of the softest, lightest and warmest animal fibres in the world, Kuna's vicuña shawl is sheared only from protected wild live animals ($2,250 US). Visit palacionazarenas.com; belmond.com; and kuna.com.pe/en/natural_fibers/vicuna.

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Don't get tied in knots for an interview

Hot under the collar. Ditch your necktie in favour of a professional bow tie

ELIAS DA SILVA-POWELL
TalentEgg.ca

When you're starting out on a job search, it's important to dress the part — whether you're at a networking event, business lunch or your first entry level job.

Despite the wealth of sartorial advice out there, I've always been a little disappointed at the lack of attention paid to that oft-maligned necktie alternative: the bow tie.

A moment of full disclosure: I couldn't be more biased on this particular front. I've been wearing bow ties for years.

However, this affinity has given me some insight into the practical merits of an admittedly esoteric piece of neckwear.

They're easy to tie (Part 1)
There's a popular misconception that a bow tie is a modern Gordian knot — when in fact tying a conventional necktie is much more complicated.

While most people learn to tie a tie one way and one way only, two Cambridge physicists have determined that the average tie can be knotted at least 85 different ways, 13 of which result in unique aesthetically pleasing knots.

By contrast, there's only one way to tie a bow tie — and the Internet is full of diagrams and videos that can teach you how.

They're easy to tie (Part 2)
Have you ever stood in front of your mirror, tying and retying a necktie, only to get the length wrong every time? Properly tied, a necktie is supposed to cover the entirety of your shirt placket, with the tip just grazing the top of your belt buckle.

It's hard to pull this off the first time, even after years of practice.

Bow ties are tall-person friendly, as you don't need to worry about having the right length of tie to work with. ISTOCK

This difficulty is greatly reduced with a bow tie. Less fabric to work with means you've got a good chance of getting it right the first time — plus, a bow-tie knot isn't supposed to be perfect (just a little asymmetrical).

They're easy to wear
Noted American designer and architect Charles Eames wore bow ties his entire life, supposedly because they kept out of his way while he worked at the drafting table.

If you regularly wear neckties, you'll know how many disastrous threats the average workplace offers your cravat. It can wind up dunked in your morning coffee, serving as an accidental serviette at lunch, snagged in a drawer… the list goes on.

The bow-tie gracefully avoids these potential pitfalls. Nestled snugly at collar level, it leaves you free to sup soup with reckless abandon — and it can't get snagged in a drawer unless you go into a filing cabinet face first.

A-plus accessory

Nestled snugly at collar level, it leaves you free to sup soup with reckless abandon — and it can't get snagged in a drawer unless you go into a filing cabinet face first.

They aren't as flashy as you think
"I couldn't get away with wearing that, everyone would stare at me."

I hear this a lot with respect to bow ties, often from friends who claim they admire my "courage." People are often afraid that they'll become an object of comment, or even ridicule, should they jump on the bowtie bandwagon.

The frank truth is that the average person — in your office, on the street — isn't really all that interested in what you're wearing. Sure, it's a bit of a rarity, but the odd funny look shouldn't be what deters you from trying new things.

After all, you'll never be able to find something that makes everyone happy.

If you work in a conservative industry, it's possible the bow tie might not be right for you. But if you're looking to express a little personal style and flair, it might just be time to jump on the bow-tie bandwagon.

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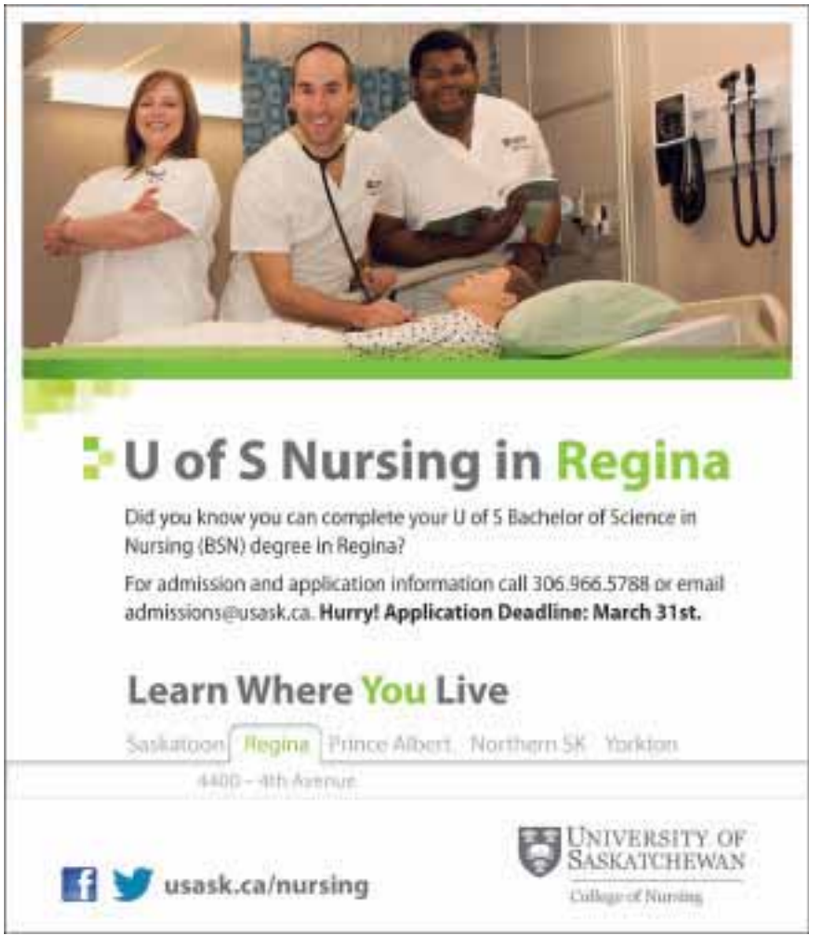
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Match clearly made in meaty heaven

Bacon-Wrapped Meatloaf. The smoky undertones of the bacon make a mouth-watering addition to this classic dish

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This recipe makes eight servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 leek, white and light green part only, thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 ml) dried thyme leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) fresh ground black pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) milk
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) ketchup
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) Worcestershire sauce
- 1 lb (500 g) each ground veal and ground pork
- 10 slices side bacon

Frying up bacon and enjoying it on its own is wonderful. Adding it to soups, salads and sandwiches is also a great way to enjoy its flavour.

I decided to make my son's favourite meal (meatloaf) and one of his favourite meats (bacon), and put them together. When I excitedly told him that I combined his two favourites and that it would be amazing, he just looked at me and asked, "Why didn't you just make regular meatloaf?"

He was pleasantly surprised to taste the dish, with the bacon flavour adding smokiness and a delicious crisp texture to the meatloaf.

Truly, this was to be a perfect match!

A side of creamy mashed potatoes to go alongside each slice of this free-form meatloaf made for a lip-smacking dinner.

This recipe really should serve eight. It served five of us with a few slices for leftovers. Tucked into a soft kaiser bun and warmed through with a sprinkling of cheese, those leftovers made lunch delectable the next day.

1. In a nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat and cook leek, garlic, thyme and pepper, stirring for about eight minutes or until softened. Scrape into large bowl; let cool slightly.

2. Stir in eggs until combined. Add bread crumbs, cheese, milk, ketchup and Worcestershire; stir until well combined. Add veal and pork and using hands mix well until thoroughly combined.

3. On a parchment paper lined baking sheet shape mixture into a 9 x 5 inch (23 x 13 cm) loaf. Lay bacon slices on a diagonal across the meatloaf, trimming strips as necessary to cover the top and sides completely.

4. Bake in 375 F (190 C) oven for about 1 hour and 10 minutes or until meat thermometer inserted in centre reaches 160 F (70 C).

5. Let stand for 5 minutes before slicing into about 1-inch (2.5 cm) slices.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

STYLE UP FOR SPRING

FASHION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AT SEARS OUTLET STORE

ANDRESR/SHUTTERSTOCK

Refresh your look for spring without breaking the bank — and take care of it all at one great store.

Update your wardrobe with this season's most affordable on-trend finds, from pretty pastels and florals to vivid brights and black and whites, at Regina's Sears Outlet Store.

"Some of the names you can expect to find here include Calvin Klein, Harley-Davidson, Nike, Bench and Levi's," says sales manager Charlene Bristow. "We get new arrivals every day, so there's always something new to discover."

At the Sears Outlet store, you can expect to find great quality, current brand-name fashions and footwear for every occasion and every season at low outlet store prices. You will also find a wide variety of fashion garnishes, such as jewelry, scarves, sunglasses, purses, belts, hats and hair accessories. And it's the perfect place to shop for every member of the family with an impressive selection of stylish looks for men, children and teens.

"We're pleased to offer a huge selection of fashions, footwear and accessories for you and your family at hugely discounted prices," Bristow says. "It's always nice to pass on savings to our customers because if the customer wins, we win, too."

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METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING
FASHION FILE

Laurent not fazed by bright lights of NFL

Football. Former McGill lineman knows nerves could derail Thursday's pre-draft workout

Laurent Duvernay-Tardif of McGill University receives the J.P. Metras Trophy for outstanding lineman during Vanier Cup celebrations, Nov. 21 in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Laurent Duvernay-Tardif can't wait to strut his stuff Thursday.

The McGill Redmen offensive lineman will hold a private workout in Montreal for NFL and CFL scouts. And after spending much of the last four months preparing for the audition, the six-foot-five, 315-pound tackle is ready for it to finally happen.

"I don't know if I should say this but I just want to do it and be done with it," he said with a chuckle Tuesday via telephone. "I've been training since December for this ... for me, it's been so long.

"I felt a little stressed last weekend but I went on the field (Monday) where I'm going to hold my pro day and ran some very good times in my shuttle and three-cone so I think I'm ready."

The 23-year-old med student said he feels terrific right now but understands nerves and the pressure to perform could weigh heavily upon him at his pro day. If that happens, Duvernay-Tardif will take a rather philosophical approach to deal with the situation.

Duvernay-Tardif was able to control being well rested and fresh for his workout.

To ensure that, he took half of last week and all of this one off from his duties working the night shift at a Montreal hospital, expecting to return either Sunday or Monday.

The articulate native of St. Hilaire, Que., finished the season as the top-ranked prospect for this year's CFL draft, slated for May 13. But Duvernay-Tardif has also drawn plenty of NFL interest and is projected as a third- or fourth-round selection in this year's draft, which will be held May 8-10.

Not bad, considering Duvernay-Tardif began his college career as a 253-pound defensive lineman and only switched to offence in 2011. McGill also accommodated his heavy academic workload by reducing his practice commitments during football season.

But that didn't stop Duvernay-Tardif from twice earning All-Canadian honours and capturing the 2013 Metras trophy as Canadian university football's top lineman.

He was invited to participate in last weekend's CFL combine in Toronto but opted instead to focus on his pro day.

It's unclear how many scouts will attend Duvernay-Tardif's workout. Both the Arizona Cardinals and Buffalo Bills have said publicly they'll be there but some CFL teams are expected to take a miss because Duvernay-Tardif is likely to be go in the NFL draft and start his pro career there.

Regardless, Duvernay-Tardif's people are erring on the side of caution.

"We agreed to prepare food for 50 people, I don't know what that means," Duvernay-Tardif said. "I've been told if we had 15 (NFL scouts) we'd be super happy and if we had 20, that would be incredible."

The scouting report on Duvernay-Tardif says he has the size, strength, athleticism, temperament and intelligence to play at the next level. However, there are concerns about his inexperience as an offensive lineman and having played a yard off the ball at McGill, prompting some scouts to question if Duvernay-Tardif can get into blocks quickly enough in the NFL.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Leafs' playoff bid takes another hit

Roaring cheers greeted the announcement of Jonathan Bernier as the Toronto Maple Leafs' starting goaltender. His return from a five-game absence due to injury was desperately needed amid a season-worst losing streak.

But the result was the same as recent efforts for the Leafs who surrendered their sixth straight, 5-3 to St. Louis on Tuesday night.

The loss dropped the Leafs out of a playoff spot for the first time since Jan. 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Bills owner Wilson dies at 95

Ralph Wilson, the Buffalo Bills owner who helped found the American Football League in 1960 and played a key role in the merger with the NFL, died Tuesday. He was 95.

Wilson died at his home in Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich. He had been receiving home hospice care. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curling

Homan's rink losing Kreviazuk

Rachel Homan's champion curling rink will have a different look next season.

Longtime second Alison Kreviazuk is leaving the Homan team next month after deciding to move to Sweden to be with her boyfriend. Joanne Courtney of Val Sweeting's rink will join Homan's next season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weir not wearied by seven-year drought

Mike Weir of Canada plays a shot on the sixth hole during of the Honda Classic on Feb. 28, in Palm Gardens, Fla. SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

It has been almost seven years since Canadian Mike Weir last won on the PGA Tour.

He has battled injuries over the last few seasons and is trying to regain the form that saw him excel a decade ago. Weir has made the cut at only three events this year but feels his game is close to returning to form.

It's his short game — normally one of his strengths — that has cost him of late. Weir has been working hard to correct things as he prepares for the two tournaments ahead of the Masters next month.

Weir is scheduled to play at the Valero Texas Open this week in San Antonio before heading to Humble, Tex., for the Shell Houston Open the following weekend. After that, the 2003 Masters champion will return to Augusta for the first major of the golf season.

Weir, 43, pulled out of an event in late January due to a "tweak" in his neck. He has been training hard in recent weeks and is feeling strong and ready.

The native of Bright's Grove, Ont., beat Len Mattiace in a playoff back in 2003 to become the first Canadian-born men's player to win a major. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Timing is everything

"You've got to put it all together at the right time — I'm just not doing that." Canadian golfer Mike Weir reacting to his struggles on the PGA Tour

Great Scotti! Now that's a car collection

Enforced auction. Dealership owner and avid collector John must sell portion of his giant number of vehicles as he is moving house

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The star of the show could be the Chrysler Airflow, which should fetch $150-200k.

A large portion of John Scotti's insanely large car collection. IMAGES: AUCTIONS AMERICA

In true collector spirit, John Scotti kept acquiring muscle cars and late model exotics, and didn't worry too much about the accumulation.

But now he's forced to — The Montreal-based collector, who also operates several new-car dealerships, has to relocate his Lamborghini and Lotus operations, which also houses a good chunk of his collection, and the new digs just can't take all the 'Vettes, Mustangs, Cudas, and Torinos.

So he's sending 400 to 450 of them to auction.

The "John Scotti Collection" will headline Auctions America's spring sale in Auburn, Ind., on May 8-10, and stands to be the largest single Canadian car collection ever sold at auction.

Some might suggest the word "collection" could be replaced with "inventory," as most of the vehicles appeared to be for sale by John Scotti Classic Cars. But Howard Cohen, who manages John Scotti Classic Cars, told us there were cars in the warehouse no one ever saw. "Some have been sitting in there for 12 years." Cohen also adds that his boss is a lifelong car enthusiast who acquired the vehicles over a period a time, and that the collection very much reflects his personal tastes.

Scotti must be drawn to low-mileage original muscle cars, because there are an impressive number of those in the collection. Two such examples include the 1967 Corvette Convertible with 5,500 miles, and the 1987 Buick GNX showing just 90 original miles.

The car expected to fetch the highest value under the hammer is the show-ready 1934 Chrysler Airflow, with a sales estimate of $150,000 to $200,000.

All the collection cars will be sold with "no reserve" (sometimes sellers stipulate a reserve or minimum selling amount that must be met before the vehicle can change hands).

While "no reserve" seems to introduce an element of risk, Gord Duff of Auctions America says history has shown that "no reserve" always creates more interest and attendance and buzz, and that always translates to better overall sales results.

He also noted that the John Scotti cars are on a one-way ticket to Indiana. "Both parties (Auctions America and John Scotti) have put in lots of work to get these cars here. They're not going back to Montreal."

From Scotti's end, the work entails starting hundreds of veteran cars that haven't stirred for a while, and that means lots battery replacements and carb cleaning, and the occasional un-sticking of seized brakes. About 200 cars are already in Indiana. Another 200-plus to go. "Everything has to be out of here by April 30th, that's the cut-off," says Cohen.

While in an ideal world, Cohen would have preferred to sell the cars the usual "retail" way, he completely agrees with his boss's decision to make this mass sell-off. "We just had too many cars … To be honest with you, my boss likes buying more than he does selling."

And he's at it again. "John just made another purchase — 946 cars from a 92-year old collector." For more information on the John Scotti auction check out auctionsamerica.com. You can also watch a lot of the auction live on the NBC Sports Network.

Fear the pothole now winter is over

Driving Force. Having eroded over the cold season many roads are cracked and riddled with potential tire bursters, just don't be speeding if you hit one

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

After such a harsh winter beware of huge potholes in mostly secondary and rural roads . PHOTO: CARSTAR

Take note

- **Eyes peeled.** Watch for puddles when the rest of the road is dry; there could be deep potholes under the water.
- **Check just in case.** Depending on circumstances, you may be able to make a claim to the municipality or your insurance company for pothole damage.

Along with warmer weather and the first flowers, spring also brings potholes. Not only are they annoying when you're driving, but if they're large enough, they have the potential to do serious damage to your vehicle.

"It depends on how you hit it, and how fast you're going," says Teresa Kostick, owner of All Line CARSTAR Auto Body, near Chicago. "And even though you're hitting it with your front wheel first, you may have a problem with the rear wheel too, because it will go into the same pothole."

Potholes happen when water seeps through cracks in the asphalt to the ground below. When it freezes, it pushes the pavement up and also creates an indentation under it. When warmer weather arrives and the ice melts, cars driving over the asphalt break it apart, and a pothole is born.

The wheel initially takes the blow, and a hard bump can bend a rim or even blow out a tire. Even if the tire stays in place, a bent rim can cause it to gradually lose air, eventually leaving you with a flat tire. Hitting the pothole can also dislodge the wheel weights, leaving the wheel unbalanced.

A hard hit can potentially damage steering or suspension components, affect your brakes, crack the air dam or front fascia, or in severe conditions, even damage a wheel well or fender.

Warning signs of damage can include clunking or grinding noises when you're steering or using the brakes, vibration when you're driving, the vehicle pulls to one side, or the steering wheel is off-centre. All of these can be safety issues, and you should get the vehicle checked as soon as possible.

Even if nothing's broken, you may still need an alignment, which should be done promptly. If you keep driving it like that, it can cause uneven tire wear. The car could also steer or brake erratically if you need to make an emergency manoeuvre. If you see a pothole, slow down before you get to it, not when you're about to hit it. Jamming on the brakes causes your vehicle to nosedive, which can potentially cause even more damage.

"Leave enough distance between you and the vehicle ahead so you can see potholes," Kostick says. "Lower your speed, and if you can't avoid the pothole, go over it as slowly as you can."

Mini is efficient fun but beware certain hiccups

Second gear.
2006-2013
Mini Cooper

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The second-generation new Mini Cooper was available in a plethora of trim grades, body styles and variations, which launched initially in 2006 with others phased in over the following years. Before long, generation-two of the new Mini Cooper could be specified as a hatchback, a wagon, a convertible, a mini-SUV, a van, a coupe, or a roadster. Equipment included Bluetooth, navigation, push-button start, multimedia connectivity, mood lighting, oversized sunroofs, xenon lights, heated leather seats, automatic climate control, and plenty more.

Common issues

There's talk of timing chain issues with earlier turbocharged units in this generation, from about 2007 to 2011. Apparently, an updated timing chain tensioner and some other improvements solved this issue after 2011 — but shoppers are advised to be aware of the issue and check with the seller, and a Mini technician, as to whether the unit in question should be investigated further. Oil consumption may contribute to the timing chain tensioner issue on earlier turbocharged Cooper engines, too. Some owners report heavy oil consumption, others report none, and most debate how much oil consumption is considered 'normal'. Going with a turbo model? Be sure it's been treated to frequent, on-time, high-quality oil changes — as these are vital to long-term turbo health. Signs of a bad turbo include smoke (particularly at idle when the engine is warm), sporadic performance under hard acceleration, and oil leaks out of the turbo housing. Note that the Mini's turbocharger can be easily accessed for a mechanical inspection since it's bolted to the front of the engine. Premature clutch failure has been reported by many owners, so be sure to drive the manual-equipped Mini you're considering while 'feeling' for signs of slippage or 'biting back' from the gearbox while changing gears.

PHOTO: PROVIDED

What owners like

Handling that causes fits of laughter, very good fuel mileage, a largely comfortable ride, and sporty performance, even on non-turbo Mini's were all reported by owners.

What owners dislike

Limited storage facilities, limited cargo room, limited rear-seat legroom on most models and an assortment of other size-related issues are the most common complaints.

Engine

All units, by default, get a 1.6 litre four-cylinder engine and drive the front wheels via an automatic or manual transmission. Look for output in the low 120-horsepower range, that figure increasing towards 180 in turbocharged models designated with an 'S'. Special hopped-up 'JCW' models have the boost dialed up, creating even more horsepower with output pushing into the 200 range on select models.

The verdict

For maximum confidence, shop for as new a model as your budget will allow, as improvements were made to address some issues as production went on. Buying a used Mini Cooper without a mechanical checkup at a Mini dealer isn't recommended.

The Saskatchewan Safety Council has numerous training programs available to both new and experienced riders. These programs deliver hands on experience with certified instructors on one of the country's best motorcycle training courses at the RCMP track in Regina, SK.

Registration for Basic Rider Training is NOW OPEN!

Courses offered include:
• Basic Rider Training • Group Riding and Practical Street Skills Course
• Motorcycle "M" Endorsement • Experienced Rider Training

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Working Together To Achieve A Safe Saskatchewan

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
It may at times seem as if you are moving backwards but that means you need to adjust your way of thinking. What you have to understand is that every experience moves you forward, eventually.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Social activities will go well today, so make an effort to get out and meet new people. The more things you do with others, the more you will enjoy yourself and the more of an effect your actions will have.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You can be a bit too blunt and with Mercury, your ruler, linked to Jupiter, planet of excess, today you may say too much. So what? At least you have something worth saying.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You need to realize there is more going on than you were previously aware of. You need to accept that in spite of all the bad things that go on in the world, it's a wonderful place.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Either you will come into money today or you will come up with a plan that makes you money in thefuture. If it's the latter, be patient. True wealth is worth waiting for.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Joint plans are less likely to go wrong today if you keep any doubts you have to yourself. Yes, it's quite likely you can see a better way of doing things but, having agreed to take part in a venture, you must be positive about it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Self-confidence is the key to success, so believe in what you are doing. Remember too that the world you experience is largely a reflection of what goes on inside your head.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You must carry on with a creative endeavor that you may have been thinking of giving up on. You don't seem to realize how close you are to a breakthrough.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today's Mercury-Jupiter aspect will help you find the words to connect with those you are closest to. You don't have to get emotional but you do have to remind them that your love is unconditional.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It's unlike you to be easygoing about people you don't much like and opinions you think are stupid but you seem to have reached a point where, frankly, you no longer care. Getting uptight is not worth the hassle.

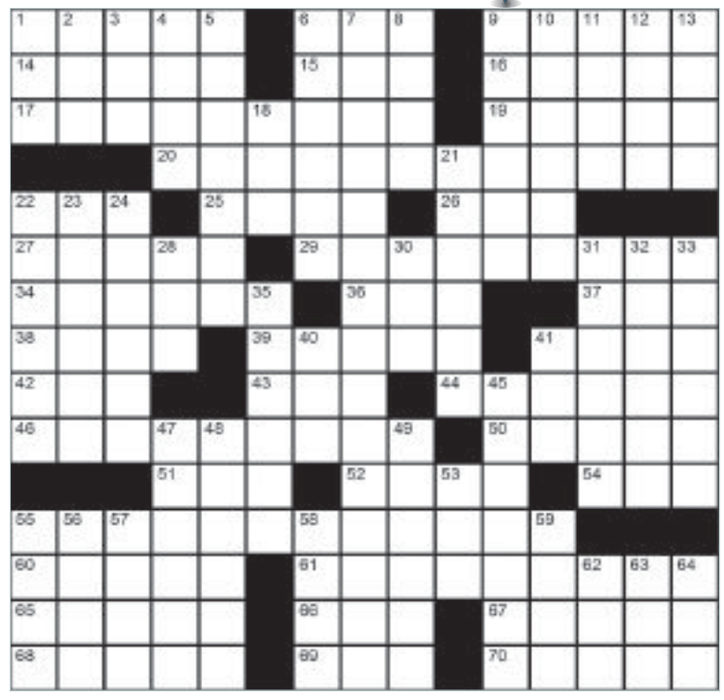
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Mercury in the money area of your chart suggests that Lady Luck will be smiling on you over the next few days. If you do find you have extra cash in your pocket, why not treat someone you love to an afternoon or evening out?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It's an ideal day to make promises. Mercury, planet of the mind, is on your side so decide what you desire and commit to making it yours. The universe will hear and respond favourably. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

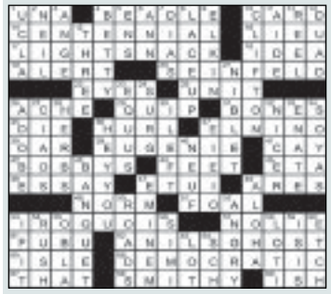
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Nest noise
6. First aid team, e.g.
9. Quick times
14. __ _ grudge
15. Maintain the lawn
16. "Garfield: _ __ of Two Kitties" (2006)
17. Kim Mitchell hit: 3 wds.
19. Peppy gathering
20. Saskatchewan city just north of Saskatoon
22. Singer's prop
25. Jessica's surname
26. Scot's 'own'
27. Web memo, _-__
29. Vintage comedy
34. New York's capital
36. Shiba __ (Dog breed of Japan)
37. "__ Mir Bist Du Schon" by The Andrews Sisters
38. Randy Jackson's word
39. French painter Edouard
41. Musician Mr. Saunders
42. 'Capri' suffix
43. Smoker's prop
44. Has moved on: 2 wds.
46. Bing-using reason: 2 wds.
50. Still _ __ (Maya Angelou poem)
51. Prefix to 'form'
52. "__ Flux" (2005)
54. Prefix to 'ate' (Ventilate)
55. Driver's must have: 2 wds.
60. Just one French fry
61. Justin's super fans
65. Hot chocolate
66. Wide shoe width
67. "No!"
68. Sharp weapon
69. Learning basics, informally
70. __-Canada Highway

Down
1. Visa transaction, briefly
2. "Yoo-__!"
3. Gremlin
4. Ancient Dead Sea land
5. __ Free (Beauty product's label info, maybe)
6. Hams it up
7. Linda Evangelista's really took off in 1990: 2 wds.
8. Graceful bird
9. Canadian singer/producer Mr. Church
10. Turtles tune: "__ __ Me Babe"
11. Tumble
12. Stuff
13. Leonard __, Roy Rogers' birth name (b.1911 - d.1998)
18. __ Lanka
21. Largest dairy processor in Canada
22. __ Lake (Saskatchewan city, the 'Gateway to Pure Air & Water')
23. Getting home tardily: 2 wds.
24. Arachnid's architecture
28. Wrestling: __ team
30. 'Meth' suffix
31. Spanish airline
32. Cherry: French
33. Out of __ (Unbalanced)
35. Q. "'_.-._.-._.' __ a song by what group?" A. "Village People."
40. Broadcast
41. Mal de __ (Seasickness)
45. Don McLean song about a Dutch painter
47. Courtship guy
48. Group of nine
49. Faith __
53. 'Pepper' add-on (Deli item)
55. Ozone pollutants, for short
56. In _ __ (Sequentially)
57. Puerto's partner
58. Slangy 'super'
59. Celebrity hairstylist Jose
62. Actress Ms. Green
63. Stimpy's pal
64. Non-Jr.s

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

			2	3			7	9
5	9			7	1			8
	7				6		1	
	6	1				3	4	
	4		7				5	
6			1	9			3	5
2	5			4	7			

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	9	3	7	2	4	5	8
4	2	5	1	9	8	3	6	7
3	8	7	4	6	5	2	1	9
8	3	1	7	2	6	5	9	4
5	7	4	9	8	3	1	2	6
2	9	6	5	1	4	8	7	3
7	4	2	6	3	1	9	8	5
9	5	8	2	4	7	6	3	1
6	1	3	8	5	9	7	4	2

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